Saskatchewan

2000 Annual Report

The Saskatchewan Children's ADVOCATE Office

Advocating with children, youth and their natural advocates to ensure the rights of children and youth are respected and valued.

The Saskatchewan ADVOCATE Office

Children's Advocate

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SASKATCHEWAN

May 2001

The Honourable Myron Kowalsky
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Building
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act*, it is my privilege to submit to you and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly my sixth Annual Report.

Respectfully,

D Parker-Loewen

Deborah Parker-Loewen, Ph.D.
Children's Advocate
Province of Saskatchewan

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The Children's Advocate is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and acts pursuant to *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act.*

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Executive Summary

This 2000 Annual Report details how the CAO continues to advocate with children, youth and their natural advocates to ensure the rights of children and youth are respected and valued in government practice, policy and legislation. Several issues, which have been raised in previous annual reports, have been raised again in 2000. These include the need for clear standards of care for youth in young offender facilities and the need to improve how we, as a province, safeguard children who may be at risk or in foster care. Issues are discussed in terms of the progress that is being made by government and others to improve the situation for these children.

"...the key distinctive element of children's ombudspeople and commissioners (and advocates) for children is 'their independent, human rights-based perspective. Their role is to render children and their rights visible, to monitor, cajole, nag, promote and demonstrate innovations and when necessary to criticize, fearlessly but constructively.'"

Newell & Uting, 2000.

Public Education

CAO staff participated in 100 presentations to various community agencies and government departments and staff. The highlight for the year was the CAO participation in the *Mind the Gap* youth/adult partnership conference. Saskatchewan youth and adult policymakers met November 18 to 20, 2000 to discuss strategies for effective youth involvement. Over the course of the three-day conference, youth developed recommendations and strategies in seven key areas that impact youth. These included:

- Media Portrayals of Youth
- Inaccurate Assumptions of Youth
- Making Decisions
- Improving/Facilitating Open Communication Between Adults and Youth
- Tokenism and Logistics of Youth Representation
- Youth Sexual Health/Ill-Health
- Involving Youth at Risk
- Youth Leadership/Skills Development

The conference was an incredible opportunity to put into practice the belief that children and youth must have a voice in matters that affect them.

Individual and Group Advocacy

The number of individual requests for service continued to grow in 2000, increasing by nine percent over the previous year. Parents continue to represent the largest group contacting the CAO, representing 42 percent of all calls. As in previous years, the majority of concerns raised with the CAO focused on the Department of Social Services (DSS), representing 63 percent of all calls to the office.

Review of Child Deaths in Saskatchewan

A special report entitled *A Summary of Child Death Reviews: August 1996 to December 1998* has been tabled as an addendum to this 2000 Annual Report. This Summary report provides an overview of the child death reviews that the CAO has undertaken in the last two years. The report also includes observations and conclusions for consideration in future work.

Special Report on the Investigations at Provincial Youth Custody Facilities

During 2000, the CAO investigated two reports of unfair and unreasonable treatment of youth in custody. With one youth (JH), the investigation found that the treatment of JH during the incident under investigation was unacceptable. In the second investigation, facility staff were found to have acted within policy guidelines. Recommendations for specific policies and standards in the areas of segregation, use of force, compliance with policy and appeal processes were made in the investigations of the treatment of both youth.

Systemic Advocacy

Several systemic issues, which have been documented in previous annual reports, remain of concern to the CAO. Significant process was noted in some areas. Issues of concern identified during 2000 were:

- Standards for youth in youth custody facilities
- Response to the *Children and Youth in Care Review: LISTEN to Their Voices*
- School-based complaints
- Child's right to participate in decisions affecting their lives, specifically in custody and access matters
- CAO role in advocacy for and with First Nations children
- Advocacy in Northern Saskatchewan

Future Goals

The CAO is in the process of completing a strategic plan. Four goal areas have been identified as part of the plan. These goals will form the basis of the work of the CAO over the next few years.

While Saskatchewan still needs to find ways to fully protect all children, 2000 was a year of hope and renewed optimism. The CAO will continue to work toward the realization of this goal.

From the Children's Advocate

Since my appointment as Children's Advocate in 1994, I have presented five annual reports to the members of the Legislative Assembly and to the citizens of Saskatchewan. This sixth annual report provides my observations about issues impacting the well-being of our Saskatchewan children and reports on the recommendations made and other actions taken by this Office related to these issues.

Saskatchewan has made and continues to make a significant and positive commitment to improve the interests and well-being of children. We know that poverty among Saskatchewan children has declined. We know that many services and programs for children and their families have been strengthened. We also know that we all need to do even more to safeguard our children and ensure that they really do get to grow up with love, happiness and understanding. We know from the children and young people themselves that they want to be and feel respected and welcomed in society. We know that we all need to work together to make sure that every child is cared for and valued. And there is still a long way to go to make this happen!

Each year in my annual report I give you the same messages. I have seen some progress in how we, as a society, value and care for our children. I am increasingly in awe of the courage, the joy and the strength of the children whose life situations come to the attention of this Office. I see increased understanding and respect being demonstrated by those adults who walk together with these children. However, I continue to be frustrated by what is not working; by those who do not or will not give the children the respect and valuing that they deserve; by those who put other priorities first and children second.

It was a great honour for me to be re-appointed as Saskatchewan's Children's Advocate in April 2000. In this second five-year term I intend to continue to promote children's rights and well-being as fervently and as compassionately as I know how to do. It is my privilege, indeed my daily challenge, to animate the voices of children and youth in Saskatchewan. I know that children can speak for themselves. I also know, that as a Children's Advocate Office, we are simply a conduit for these very eloquent and important voices.

This is work that is not done alone. I want to recognize and commend the staff of my Office for their continued and passionate commitment to Saskatchewan children.

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I also want to thank the government officials and community advocates for the significant support you have shown this Office and me in the last five years. I am looking forward to working together with you in the upcoming years.

I invite you to consider the information in this annual report as you work to safeguard the children in your life. As a province we still have shortcomings in how we protect our children. However, I do want to say that 2000 was a year of hope and renewed optimism for me. I believe that Saskatchewan citizens are boldly committed to improving the lives of our children. My staff and I join in this commitment.

Deborah Parker-Loewen
Children's Advocate
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"The following is a summary of the general aims of existing independent offices for children...

- **To promote full implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child***
- **To promote a higher priority for children and a higher visibility of children, in central, regional or local government and in civil society, and to improve public attitudes to children**
- **To influence law, policy and practice, both by responding to governmental and other proposals and by actively proposing changes**
- **To promote proper coordination of government for children at all levels**
- **To promote effective use of financial and other resources for children**
- **To provide a channel for children's views, and to encourage government and the public to give proper respect to children's views**
- **To collect and publish data on the situation of children and/or encourage the government to collect and publish adequate data**
- **To promote awareness of the human rights of children among children and adults**
- **To conduct investigations and undertake or encourage research**
- **To review children's access to, and the effectiveness of, all forms of complaints procedures and advocacy systems, for example in institutions and schools, and including children's access to the courts**
- **To respond to individual problems or complaints from children or those representing children, and where appropriate initiate or support legal action on behalf of children."**

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Public Education

The Children's Advocate Office conducts public education to raise the profile of the rights of all children in Saskatchewan. The Office strives to develop and enhance a sense of individual and community responsibility for protecting and promoting children's rights.

Activities of Note in 2000

During 2000, the CAO was privileged to be included in a number of initiatives and activities that impact on the well-being of children in Saskatchewan.

CAO staff participated in 100 presentations to various community agencies, government departments and staff. A significant number of these were made in follow-up to the *Children and Youth in Care Review: LISTEN To Their Voices.* Foster parents, youth in care, teachers, mental health professionals, social workers and others were interested in discussing the report's recommendations. Special attempts were made to share information with all the groups from across the province who participated in the Review. A special presentation on the Review was made at the Public Legal Education Association (PLEA) Law Week Luncheon.

The CAO also made submissions to two All-Party committees of the Legislative Assembly. These included the *Special Committee To Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade* and the *Special Committee on Tobacco Control.* Highlights from these are described in the Research Section of this report.

Children's rights and corporal punishment were the focus of speeches made to the College of Law and at the *Eighth Annual Symposium on Violence and Aggression.* Advocacy and health services were the focus of presentations to students and faculty of the College of Nursing and at the *Tenth Annual Northern Health Conference.*

At the national level, the Children's Advocate was a panel presenter at the *Community Partnership Symposium on Youth Justice Renewal.* Three key areas for action were identified, which included the need to create: a Commissioner for children, a national youth reference group and a strategy to promote and monitor children's rights in Canada. CAO staff also participated in the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates (CCPCYA). The CAO involvement with the CCPCYA continues to provide support in all areas of responsibility as well as providing a means to bring forward advocacy issues at the national level.

In addition, CAO staff continued to make regular presentations to youth and staff at youth custody facilities and group homes.

Staff also responded to numerous requests for resources and information on such topics as children's advocacy, children's rights, foster care, child deaths, youth participation, corporal punishment, poverty and sexual exploitation of children and youth, to name just a few.

The Provincial Youth Delegation

The Provincial Youth Delegation (PYD) works to ensure that in acting to "promote the interests and well-being of children and youth," that the CAO is informed by the voices and experience of young people themselves. The PYD Steering Committee meets quarterly and spearheads the group's annual agenda. In 2000, this agenda took its direction from a new set of organizational goals.

PYD Goals

In the belief that young people are valuable, untapped resources in their communities, the Delegation seeks to:

- **create opportunities for leadership development and community involvement among youth,**
- **promote inclusion of youth in decisions which impact their lives and futures, and**
- **generate awareness of the negative stereotypes which isolate youth from meaningful participation in society.**

The PYD, an initiative of the CAO, has been working toward the realization of its goals since 1998. PYD participants come from across Saskatchewan and have a variety of interests and experiences in youth and community activities. The CAO has been privileged to support the development of the PYD.

Over the course of the year, Steering Committee members demonstrated strong personal commitment to youth participation, responding to numerous requests by government and community groups for "the youth perspective." These activities have included participation in the *Department of Education's Task Force on the Role of the Schools*, the *Saskatoon's Working Group on Child Sexual Exploitation*, the *Forum on Children Not in School*, and the *Public Legal Education Association (PLEA) Youth and Human Rights Conference*.

A major initiative for the PYD during 2000 was its partnership in the *Mind the Gap* youth/adult partnership conference. The PYD has been working towards an event such as *Mind the Gap* since 1998, when the CAO invited over 25 youth from all across Saskatchewan to come together in a round table discussion about youth participation. *Mind the Gap* demanded the energy and resources of the Delegation in 2000. It was a major milestone for meaningful youth involvement and participation. *Mind the Gap* is also poised to dominate the agenda for the PYD into 2001, as the PYD pursues the recommendations through all avenues – from public presentations of the recommendations to the development of a website.

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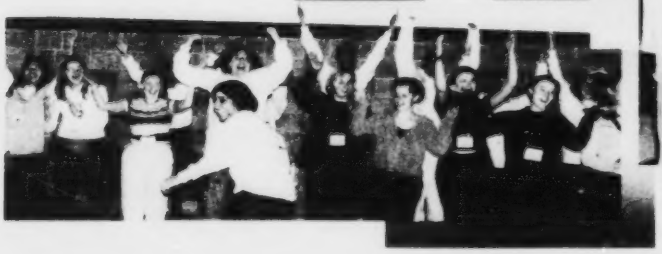
Mind the Gap

"We've got to stop complaining and start looking to the adults who are listening, and who will continue to listen because they know us and take our ideas seriously."

Mind the Gap
Youth Participant



Mind the Gap Participants
November 18-20, 2000

Keep news unbiased by working alongside media representatives.
Provide funding and support for youth initiated media activities.
Have youth encourage other youth to become involved in positive activities.
Create opportunities to overcome the stereotypes perpetuated by the media.

Implement programs to raise awareness of youth issues in schools and the community.
Give more media coverage for the positive things youth are doing.
Integrate adults and youth into each other's programs to better understand why there are barriers between adults and youth. (Without playing the role of the adult for youth, but as equals.

Improve/facilitate open communication between adults and youth.

Make adults realize that youth are good resources and can be helpful.
Youth need adults to really want youth to be there and need to be made aware of youth issues from a youth viewpoint.
Get youth on "boards" involving youth issues.
Make youth effective members.
Keep the momentum.

Have adults and youth work together in joint counselling initiatives in schools.
Develop youth teams, which would travel around Saskatchewan to share experiences and talk about self-esteem issues.
Have adult experts who present information to youth include youth in their presentations. This could improve the reception of messages by the youth.
Have all Saskatchewan school curriculums include a sex education course that has input from both teachers and students. Individuals, agencies and the community should be encouraged to advocate for the government to make this change.

Actions to address Young Offender Services.
Actions to address Youth in or From Care (YIC).
Actions to address Sexual Abuse/Sexual Exploitation.
Actions to address Human Rights.
Actions to address Child Abuse.

Develop and gather a youth/adult partnership model to give adults and youth the skills to work effectively together within the community.
Implement the above developed model to teach other youth and adults how to engage in meaningful partnerships. This could be accomplished through conferences, workshops, and the development of educational materials to name just a few.

The chief concern now is to see that the ideas, energy and recommendations from *Mind the Gap* are honored through action. Since the conference, there have been many youth-adult partnerships formed. The results of the conference are already being referenced in documents that will form policy in both government and community organizations. The key will be to keep the momentum that was created during the three days in November.

The Children's Advocate is committed to continuing this work in Saskatchewan, to ensuring that children and youth are actively included in the life of their communities, and that their voices are heard in the decisions which impact their future. In the coming years, hopefully the youth-adult partnerships that were formed through this conference will be a part of everyday life, rather than part of a single event. Obviously, the voices of youth are both valid and important.

A copy of the conference final report, which includes youth recommendations and strategies to address them, may be obtained from the CAO or on the CAO website at www.legassembly.sk.ca/childadvocate/.

As the PYD continues to build on its success, it is guided by a very simple philosophy, one captured by the words of a participant at that first meeting in 1998: "Many of the answers to current challenges can and will come from youth themselves - if they are given a chance to express themselves."

Mind the Gap

Young people from across Saskatchewan have been saying that they want to have a way to participate in decision-making and policy development - particularly when decisions and policies affect them. The *Mind the Gap* youth/adult partnership conference was a significant step towards reaching this goal.

One hundred Saskatchewan youth and 100 adult policymakers met November 18 to 20, 2000 to discuss strategies for effective youth involvement. The events of the three days were an incredible opportunity to put into practice the belief that children and youth must have a voice in matters that affect them.

Mind the Gap was a partnership between the Provincial Youth Delegation, the Children's Advocate Office, the Saskatchewan Council on Children and the Saskatchewan Action Plan for Children Interdepartmental Steering Committee. The primary goal of *Mind the Gap*, to promote the meaningful involvement of young people, was realized not just over three days in November, but in the months leading up to the event. The leadership demonstrated by members of the PYD and the conference youth facilitators from the Saskatoon Action Circle was integral to its success. The inclusion of youth in the planning was as important in many ways as the final product. In addition, the adult-youth partnerships that were formed to initiate this event are an example of how well youth-adult partnerships can work.

"We've got to stop complaining and start looking to the adults who are listening, and who will continue to listen because they know us and take our ideas seriously."

Mind the Gap, Youth Participant

Mind the Gap Participants, November 18-20, 2000.

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Mind the Gap Youth Recommendations and Strategies

Issue #1: The Media
- Keep news unbiased by working alongside media representatives.
- Provide funding and support for youth initiated media activities.
- Have youth encourage other youth to become involved in positive activities.
- Create opportunities to overcome the stereotypes perpetuated by the media.

Issue #2: Inaccurate Assumptions of Youth
- Implement programs to raise awareness of youth issues in schools and the community.
- Give more media coverage for the positive things youth are doing.
- Integrate adults and youth into each other's programs to better understand why there are barriers between adults and youth. (Without playing the role of the adult for youth, but as equals.

Issue #3: Making Decisions
- Improve/facilitate open communication between adults and youth.

Issue #4: Tokenism and Logistics of Youth Representation
- Make adults realize that youth are good resources and can be helpful. Youth need adults to really want youth to be there and need to be made aware of youth issues from a youth viewpoint.
- Get youth on "boards" involving youth issues.
- Make youth effective members.
- Keep the momentum.

Issue #5: Youth Sexual Health/Ill-Health
- Have adults and youth work together in joint counselling initiatives in schools.
- Develop youth teams, which would travel around Saskatchewan to share experiences and talk about self-esteem issues.
- Have adult experts who present information to youth include youth in their presentations. This could improve the reception of messages by the youth.
- Have all Saskatchewan school curriculums include a sex education course that has input from both teachers and students. Individuals, agencies and the community should be encouraged to advocate for the government to make this change.

Issue #6: Involving Youth at Risk
- Actions to address Young Offender Services.
- Actions to address Youth in or From Care (YIC).
- Actions to address Sexual Abuse/Sexual Exploitation.
- Actions to address Human Rights.
- Actions to address Child Abuse.

Issue #7: Youth Leadership/Skills Development
- Develop and gather a youth/adult partnership model to give adults and youth the skills to work effectively together within the community.
- Implement the above developed model to teach other youth and adults how to engage in meaningful partnerships. This could be accomplished through conferences, workshops, and the development of educational materials to name just a few.

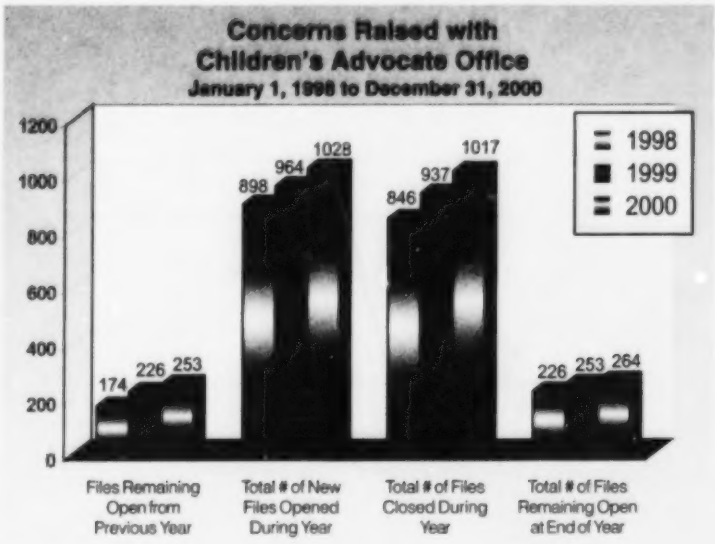
Individual and Group Advocacy

The Children's Advocate Office has the authority to receive and review any matter related to government services affecting a child or a group of children. Individual and group advocacy services include:

- Assisting people to become effective self-advocates by providing information, strategies, appropriate contacts and options.
- Assisting young people who are receiving government services to express their viewpoint and have it considered when decisions are being made that affect them.
- Working to ensure that all children, especially vulnerable children, are treated in accordance with existing government practice, policy and legislation.
- Taking further action when a matter affecting a child or group of children is not resolved or if policy concerns remain. This may include reviewing and investigating all information available and making recommendations to the government for change.

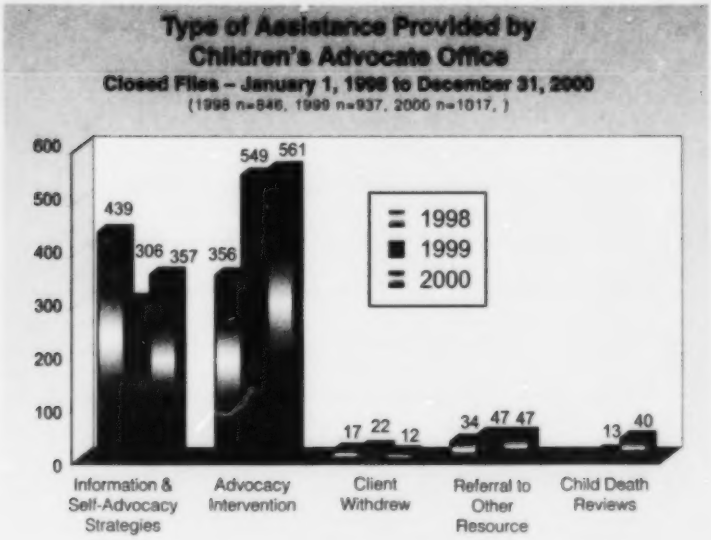
Still Growing

The number of requests for service from the CAO continues to grow. There were 1028 requests for service in 2000, a nine percent increase over the previous year. A total of 1017 files were concluded. Over the past five years, the average number of calls per month has risen from 26 per month in 1996 to 86 per month in 2000.



Type of Assistance

The Advocate Assistants and the Advocates provide a variety of advocacy services to those who call the office. These services include providing clarification of the child serving systems, strategies and assistance with self-advocacy, alternative dispute resolution and referrals.

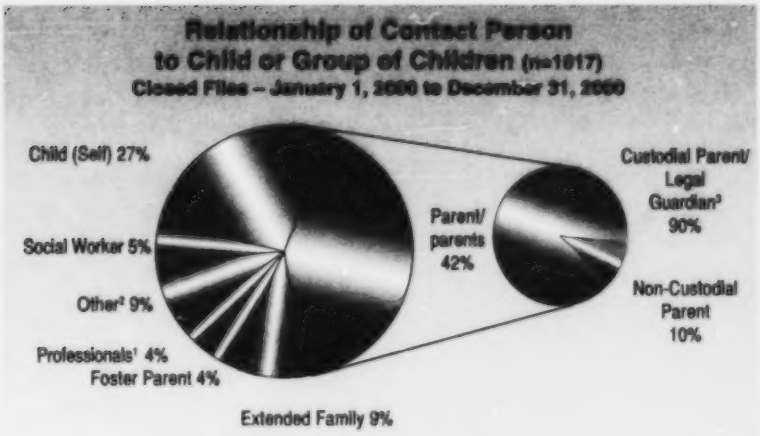


Advocacy intervention includes a spectrum of services including coaching, mentoring, attending case conferences or facilitating a multi-disciplinary exchange of information with the goal of resolving issues. Investigations of allegations of unfair treatment may also be undertaken. Advocacy intervention represents approximately 55 percent of all closed files.

Who is Calling?

Young people contact the CAO on their own behalf or indirectly through the people in their lives. Young people who directly request services are given priority, although anyone with a concern about the services a child is receiving from the provincial government is encouraged to contact the CAO.

This year there was a slight decrease in the number of young people directly calling the CAO. The number of young people requesting services decreased from 306 in 1999 to 276 in 2000. This represents a ten percent decrease from the previous year. There was an increase in the number of parents or caregivers calling about children. Parents contacted the CAO 378 times in 1999 compared to 433 times in 2000, a 15 percent increase. Often parents, extended family members or friends in the community will call on behalf of a child who is unable to speak on their own behalf.


Relationship of Contact Person to Child or Group of Children (n=1017)
Closed Files – January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000
Child (Self) 27%
Social Worker 5%
Other[2] 9%
Professionals[1] 4%
Foster Parent 4%
Extended Family 9%
Parent/ parents 42%
Custodial Parent/ Legal Guardian[3] 90%
Non-Custodial Parent 10%

[1] Includes those individuals that have a professional relationship with the child such as health care professionals, judges, community-home operators, teachers, etc.

[2] Includes interested third parties such as band representatives, babysitters, neighbours, etc. Also includes those individuals who have contacted the Office who do not have any relationship with a specific child.

[3] Legal Guardian previously reported as a separate category.

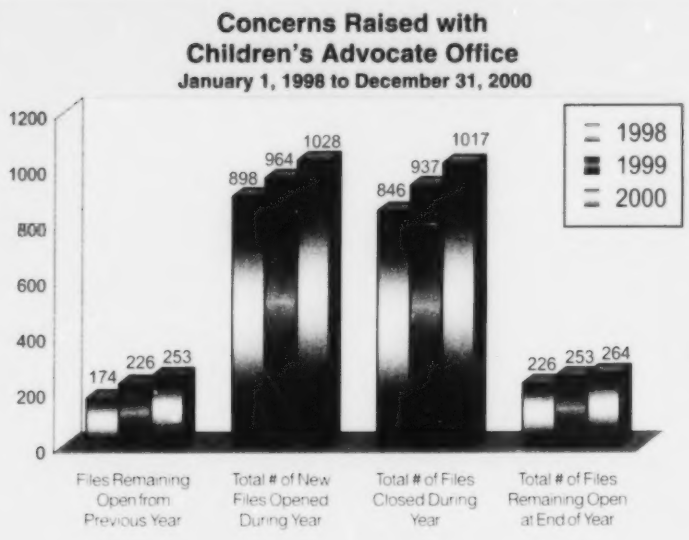
Individual and Group Advocacy

The Children's Advocate Office has the authority to receive and review any matter related to government services affecting a child or a group of children. Individual and group advocacy services include:

- Assisting people to become effective self-advocates by providing information, strategies, appropriate contacts and options.
- Assisting young people who are receiving government services to express their viewpoint and have it considered when decisions are being made that affect them.
- Working to ensure that all children, especially vulnerable children, are treated in accordance with existing government practice, policy and legislation.
- Taking further action when a matter affecting a child or group of children is not resolved or if policy concerns remain. This may include reviewing and investigating all information available and making recommendations to the government for change.

Still Growing

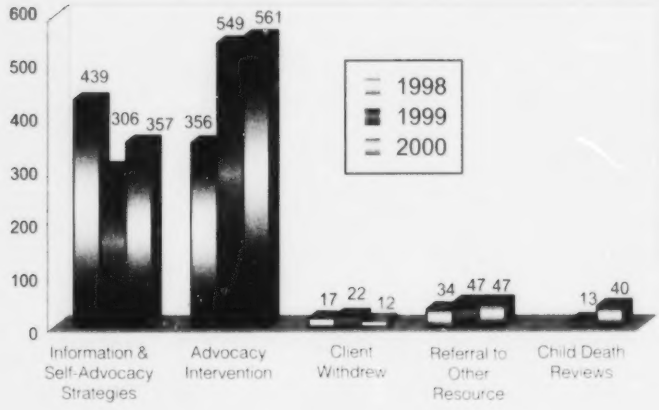
The number of requests for service from the CAO continues to grow. There were 1028 requests for service in 2000, a nine percent increase over the previous year. A total of 1017 files were concluded. Over the past five years, the average number of calls per month has risen from 26 per month in 1996 to 86 per month in 2000.



Type of Assistance

The Advocate Assistants and the Advocates provide a variety of advocacy services to those who call the office. These services include providing clarification of the child serving systems, strategies and assistance with self-advocacy, alternative dispute resolution and referrals.

Type of Assistance Provided by Children's Advocate Office
Closed Files – January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000
(1998 n=846, 1999 n=937, 2000 n=1017,)



Advocacy intervention includes a spectrum of services including coaching, mentoring, attending case conferences or facilitating a multi-disciplinary exchange of information with the goal of resolving issues. Investigations of allegations of unfair treatment may also be undertaken. Advocacy intervention represents approximately 55 percent of all closed files.

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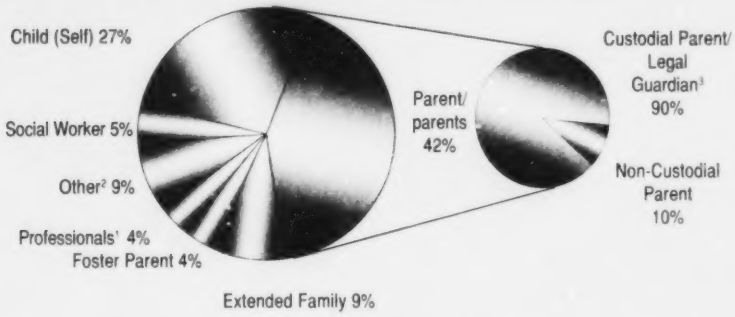

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[3] Legal Guardian previously reported as a separate category.

Case Example: The Right to Participate in Decisions

Issue: The family of a young person in foster care contacted the CAO stating that their son was upset about the DSS moving him to a new foster home placement.

Background: According to the family, the DSS had informed their son that he would be moving to a new foster home, but did not inform him of the reasons why. The parents stated that their son was upset and did not want to change foster placements.

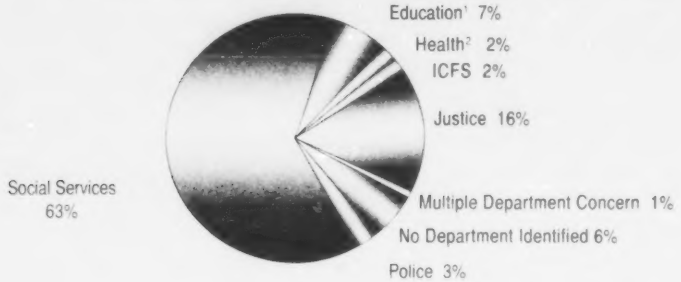
Action: The CAO contacted the youth and explained the role of the CAO. The youth was anxious to discuss his concern. He explained that he was not in favor of a move to a new home. However, he had been informed of the reasons why and provided an opportunity to express his views to his worker. He requested assistance in working out a plan with his worker. He wanted to meet the new foster parents prior to a move. The CAO assisted in facilitating this request. His worker agreed and the youth visited the new foster parents several times. He was then in agreement with the move to the new home. After moving, the youth contacted the CAO and indicated that he was happy in his new home and wished to stay. The youth's family and the former foster parents remained upset about the move.

Outcome: The parents and foster parents were provided with several options and were encouraged to express their concerns to the DSS. It was explained to both parents and foster parents, that the CAO assists youth to bring forward their voice. The youth was satisfied with his new arrangement and the file was closed.

Why are They Calling?

The reasons individuals contact the CAO continue to remain relatively consistent from year to year. As in previous years, the majority of concerns raised with the CAO focused on the Department of Social Services (DSS). Concerns regarding the DSS represented 63 percent of all calls. Calls regarding Justice issues were the next largest group at 16 percent.

Concerns Raised with Children's Advocate Office Listed by Government Department or Agency (n=1017)
Closed Files – January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000

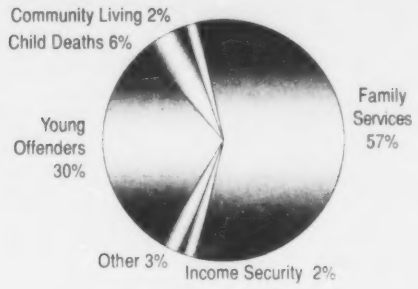


[1] Represents Department & School Boards
[2] Represents Department & Health Boards

Social Services

There were 639 concerns raised regarding the DSS representing 63 percent of all calls to the CAO. However, the number of concerns raised in 2000 remained virtually unchanged from the previous year (628 in 1999 compared to 639 in 2000). Fifty-seven percent focused on family services. Thirty percent of concerns brought to the CAO were from youth in the young offender system.

Concerns Raised with Children's Advocate Office Regarding the Department of Social Services
Closed Files – January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000 (n=639)



Callers primarily contacted the CAO about the manner in which a child's file was being managed by the DSS. This included the absence of case planning. In addition, callers were concerned with the manner in which child apprehensions occurred. Many of these callers felt that there had not been full consideration or assessment of the safety of the child/children.

Case Example: Assessments Needed Before Child Apprehensions

Issue: A 17 year-old mother complained to the CAO that the DSS had apprehended her 18 month-old toddler and she did not understand why.

Background: This young mother had been raising her son with the help of extended family. In an effort to have her become more responsible, her family contacted the DSS and asked for services for the young mother. The DSS responded by apprehending the toddler without contacting the young mother and with no assessment of her ability to care for her son. The extended family was shocked by the apprehension.

The DSS apprehended the toddler and placed him with a man identified by the Indian Child and Family Service Agency (ICFS) from the mother's home community as the child's father. The mother denied that this man was the father of her son. When she learned where her son had been placed, she retrieved her son.

Action: The CAO arranged for and attended a case conference with the DSS, the mother and her family. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the DSS was applying the Family Centred Case Management Model. The DSS is required to provide service as outlined in the Family Centred Services Manual. This policy provides for assessment and investigation prior to an apprehension. It further describes services that the mother could have been provided before the toddler was apprehended.

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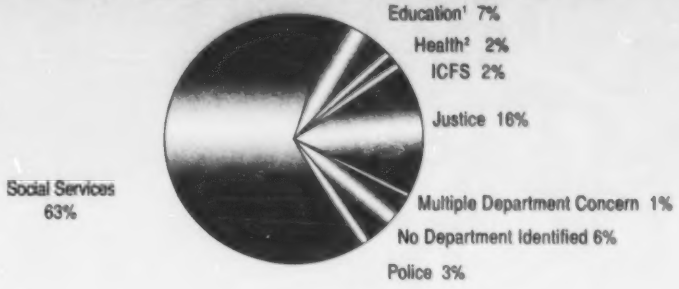

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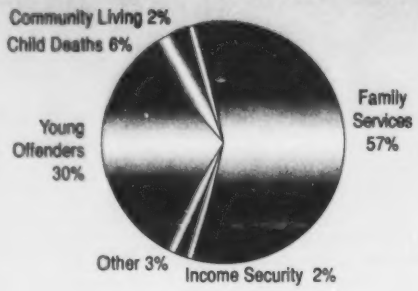

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Outcome: The DSS concurred that there were no child protection concerns. They agreed to support the mother in caring for her child through the Teen and Young Parent program, as well as provide other supports. The young mother and her child remained together and were provided the support services.

Issue: A youth contacted the CAO because the DSS did not support her request to move to independent living.

Background: The 19-year-old youth explained that she was a permanent ward and was presently on a section 56 agreement with the DSS. A section 56 agreement extends the time a child in care can receive support from the department if they are pursuing an education. She had been in care from a young age and lived in at least 50 foster care/room and board placements. She had requested more independence from her worker. She wanted her cheques made out in her name and she wanted to live independently. The DSS had previously allowed her to live independently. However, she had cancelled her section 56 agreement and attempted to make it on her own. She later realized that she required more assistance and the DSS did enter into another section 56 agreement with her.

The DSS now proposed that she live in a room and board residence to demonstrate her stability. The youth suggested that an independent living situation would provide this stability. She pointed out to the DSS that her history of over 50 placements with the department did not allow her the ability to demonstrate stability. Further, she did not want to go through the emotional upheaval of forming another relationship with someone she did not know. The DSS denied her request. She contacted the CAO for assistance.

Action: An Advocate met with the youth and assisted her in presenting her arguments to the DSS.

Outcome: A successful compromise was reached. The youth was able to find room and board with an extended family member and after a period of three months was supported by the DSS to live independently.

"If you wanted to create a criminal, you'd have a pretty good chance.

If you took someone from a seriously troubled home, put them in a string of foster homes, or group homes...

Change their social worker on a regular basis, change everything, keep changing, change everything.

If you really wanted to create a criminal, you'd let a young person drop out of school, let them run away from home at an early age, and let them look for comfort in alcohol or drugs.

And somewhere... somewhere...
In their lonely and painful existence, you'd let them be abused. Physically, sexually or emotionally abused.

And when they looked for help...
Because sometimes we do look for help... If we know where to look...

If you wanted a kid to become a criminal, you'd see to it that there wasn't any help available. When the people who could help them, who want to help them, just don't have enough time...
That's when we fall through the cracks.

You see kids as 'trouble,' instead of 'troubled.'

Most of all, if you want a kid to become a criminal, you treat him like a criminal."

Government of Canada. 2000-2001. Winter.

Outcome: The DSS concurred that there were no child protection concerns. They agreed to support the mother in caring for her child through the Teen and Young Parent program, as well as provide other supports. The young mother and her child remained together and were provided the support services.

Case Example: Transitions to Independence

Issue: A youth contacted the CAO because the DSS did not support her request to move to independent living.

Background: The 19-year-old youth explained that she was a permanent ward and was presently on a section 56 agreement with the DSS. A section 56 agreement extends the time a child in care can receive support from the department if they are pursuing an education. She had been in care from a young age and lived in at least 50 foster care/room and board placements. She had requested more independence from her worker. She wanted her cheques made out in her name and she wanted to live independently. The DSS had previously allowed her to live independently. However, she had cancelled her section 56 agreement and attempted to make it on her own. She later realized that she required more assistance and the DSS did enter into another section 56 agreement with her.

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How to create a criminal

Transcript from the award-winning video, *Bad Kids?*

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If you took someone from a seriously troubled home, put them in a string of foster homes, or group homes...

Change their social worker on a regular basis, change everything, keep changing, change everything.

If you really wanted to create a criminal, you'd let a young person drop out of school, let them run away from home at an early age, and let them look for comfort in alcohol or drugs.

And somewhere... somewhere... in their lonely and painful existence, you'd let them be abused. Physically, sexually or emotionally abused.

And when they looked for help... because sometimes we do look for help... if we know where to look...

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Government of Canada, 2000-2001, Winter.

Case Example: Inaccurate Sentence Calculation

Issue: A 16-year-old youth contacted the CAO because he thought his discharge date from a young offender's facility was wrong.

Background: The youth reported that the facility had calculated his discharge date inaccurately and as a result he spent 16 days longer in secure custody than was required.

Action: An Advocate assisted him in reviewing the court documentation and his committal order and presented the information to the facility administrators. The young offender facility staff reviewed the material and determined that they were in error. He had, in fact, spent 16 days longer in secure custody than was required.

Outcome: The DSS provided financial compensation to the youth. The youth was satisfied with the outcome and felt his issue was resolved.

Case Example: Protection of Children with Special Needs

Issue: An older sibling of a child with a developmental delay was concerned that the DSS was not planning appropriately for her sibling who was in foster care.

Background: The older sibling called on behalf of her brother. She expressed concerns over the DSS plans for her brother. She was fearful that the DSS might be planning to return her brother to his mother's care. Although all other siblings had been removed from the parent's home due to neglect and abuse ten years previous, this child was left in the home. According to the older sibling, serious incidents of abuse and neglect continued to occur and the DSS eventually apprehended him. As the sibling had already attempted to address her concerns with the DSS, she requested intervention by the CAO.

Action/Outcome: The CAO contacted the DSS and was informed that a permanent plan for the boy was being developed. The CAO advised the sibling that the DSS had a plan for her brother, but the CAO could not disclose the plan to her. The sibling was satisfied with this information. The sibling was encouraged to call the CAO again if she had further concerns. The file was closed as resolved.

Justice

As noted earlier, the number of parents contacting the CAO increased during 2000. The largest increase in parent calls was in the area of custody and access. Custody and access related calls constitute 14 percent of the total number of calls to the CAO and 89 percent of the Justice calls to the Office. The parents who called were primarily concerned about the safety of their children while in the care of another parent. In these instances information was provided to the caller about the court process, the need to consult with a lawyer, the services available through family court and the process of filing a protection complaint with the DSS.

Occasionally a youth calls regarding a custody and access matter. These youth are usually requesting assistance to have their voice heard in matters before the courts. Youth, while clearly affected by the decisions made by the court, are not a party to the custody and access proceedings. They can request leave to be heard. However, the decision is at the discretion of the judge.

Case Example: Custody and Access – Child Safety

Issue: A parent contacted the CAO with concerns about her one-year-old daughter's safety while in the care of her ex-husband.

Background: The ex-husband had been granted unsupervised access and weekend visitations. The mother felt that her ex-husband had placed their daughter several times in risky situations and was fearful that something tragic would happen to her while she was in his care. In a discussion with this parent, it was determined that she wanted the access order changed so that her ex-husband would be required to be supervised when he had visits with his daughter.

Action/Outcome: The caller was informed that the CAO does not have jurisdiction over court ordered custody and access decisions. She was encouraged to contact her lawyer who could best advise and assist her with this matter. The parent was also provided with information about child protection services provided by the DSS.

Case Example: Complaint Against Police

Issue: A youth wanted information about how to lodge a complaint against police for an alleged assault.

Background: A youth called the CAO stating police assaulted him. The youth alleged that when he was arrested, ten officers pinned him to the ground. He said he was taken to the police cells and when he asked to call his lawyer he was denied.

The youth also stated the police made racial slurs. Following his release from police custody, he called the police station to lodge a complaint and was told he could not do so.

Action/Outcome: The youth was provided with information on lodging a complaint with the Saskatchewan Police Complaints Investigator and offered assistance in doing so. He felt confident he could pursue his complaint without assistance and was encouraged to call again if he required assistance.

Education

The CAO does not have jurisdiction in most matters relating to the actions of teachers, school staff and local school boards in Saskatchewan. This fact is often surprising to many parents and the public. Regardless, parents and youth continue to call, even though the individual advocacy services the CAO can provide are limited in this area. The CAO provides information about the right of a child to education and refers the caller to the specific sections of *The Education Act* that parents can access to try and resolve difficulties when they arise. The CAO is supportive of community-based advocacy to ensure that students are heard and included in the decisions made about their education.

"One in 11 children aged ten to 13 — about 130,500 children (in Canada) — report that they are bullied at school at least some of the time. In response to these high rates of bullying within school walls, administrators are developing innovative responses."

One project in a Regina school is reported as successful: "...the key to success... students were allowed to take a constructive role in creating and maintaining their own learning environment. Rather than follow the teachers' rules, they followed those of their peers. 'The kids became players in their own culture... Everyone needs to feel they have a stake.' "

Canadian Council on Social Development, 1999.

Case Example: Right to an Education

Issue: A parent contacted the CAO because her son had been suspended from school and she felt that she had no avenue for appeal.

Background: The child had been suspended from school due to behavior problems and conflicts with other students and teachers. The parent said that she was being pressured to move her son to another school. She indicated that her son felt that it was unfair that he would not be allowed to finish off the school year at his present school.

Action/Outcome: The mother was given information about the appeal process within the school division and also about her right to access a conflict resolution process as outlined in *The Education Act.*

Health

Health reflects only two percent of all contacts with the CAO. It has been suggested that the small number of requests may indicate a need for enhanced public awareness and education about how the CAO can be of assistance in health concerns.

Those health concerns brought to the attention of the CAO reflected a need for advocacy services for children who are medically fragile. Many of these children/youth already have strong advocates in the community, including strong parental advocates. The CAO is also committed to supporting and enhancing advocacy services to these children.

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Issue: A 13-year-old child who is a permanent ward of the province of Saskatchewan and living in Manitoba called the CAO because she was denied orthodontic services from the Saskatchewan Health Supplementary Health Program.

Background: The child and her family were informed by Saskatchewan Health officials that she was being denied orthodontic service for three reasons:

- her condition was not severe enough to be approved for benefits;
- while the program may continue orthodontic treatment in another province for a ward that starts treatment in Saskatchewan, the program does not commence treatment in another province under any circumstances; and
- according to the Saskatchewan Health Registration System, the child no longer had supplementary health coverage. (Her Saskatchewan health coverage would also soon expire.)

Two separate orthodontists had assessed the girl as having a severe orthodontic problem that needed to be corrected at an early age to avoid surgery. In addition, the girl had moved to Manitoba as part of a case plan developed by the DSS to reunite her with her mother.

Action: The CAO reviewed the status of the girl's supplementary health coverage and found that it had not expired. The CAO reviewed the Children's Services policy and also found that there were provisions to cover the cost of orthodontic treatment if the beneficiary was assessed as having a "crippling malocclusion" (i.e. severe functional or developmental impairment).

Outcome: Based on the information provided by the Advocate, Saskatchewan Health staff agreed to review the case if new records could be obtained and assessed by their consultant. The treating orthodontist from Manitoba agreed to send the records free of charge. After reviewing the case, Saskatchewan Health staff agreed to provide financial support for the orthodontic treatment assessed by the child's orthodontist in Manitoba.

"For children, civil communities would recognize the need for equity of opportunity based on social justice. Essential for this would be acceptance of the over-arching principle of universal access for all children to all community resources and services. Each child would be cherished for the person he or she is, while also being valued and respected for the person they might become and for their importance to the future economy. Adult society, respecting the rights of children, would not exploit them in any way. Advantage or disadvantage through accidents of birth or inheritance would be minimized...Each community would promote the physical, intellectual, psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being of its children, and intergenerational connectedness would be the norm, supported through community-based programs."

Canadian Institute on Child Health. 2000.

Case Example: Child Denied Dental Service

Issue: A 13-year-old child who is a permanent ward of the province of Saskatchewan and living in Manitoba called the CAO because she was denied orthodontic services from the Saskatchewan Health, Supplementary Health Program.

Background: The child and her family were informed by Saskatchewan Health officials that she was being denied orthodontic service for three reasons:

- her condition was not severe enough to be approved for benefits,
- while the program may continue orthodontic treatment in another province for a ward that starts treatment in Saskatchewan, the program does not commence treatment in another province under any circumstances, and
- according to the Saskatchewan Health Registration System, the child no longer had supplementary health coverage. (Her Saskatchewan health coverage would also soon expire.)

Two separate orthodontists had assessed the girl as having a severe orthodontic problem that needed to be corrected at an early age to avoid surgery. In addition, the girl had moved to Manitoba as part of a case plan developed by the DSS to reunite her with her mother.

Action: The CAO reviewed the status of the girl's supplementary health coverage and found that it had not expired. The CAO reviewed the Children's Services policy and also found that there were provisions to cover the cost of orthodontic treatment if the beneficiary was assessed as having a "crippling malocclusion" (i.e. severe functional or developmental impairment).

Outcome: Based on the information provided by the Advocate, Saskatchewan Health staff agreed to review the case if new records could be obtained and assessed by their consultant. The treating orthodontist from Manitoba agreed to send the records free of charge. After reviewing the case, Saskatchewan Health staff agreed to provide financial support for the orthodontic treatment assessed by the child's orthodontist in Manitoba.

"For children, civil communities would recognize the need for equity of opportunity based on social justice. Essential for this would be acceptance of the over-arching principle of universal access for all children to all community resources and services. Each child would be cherished for the person he or she is, while also being valued and respected for the person they might become and for their importance to the future economy. Adult society, respecting the rights of children, would not exploit them in any way. Advantage or disadvantage through accidents of birth or inheritance would be minimized...Each community would promote the physical, intellectual, psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being of its children, and intergenerational connectedness would be the norm, supported through community-based programs."

Canadian Institute on Child Health, 2000.

Multi-Departmental Involvement

Some of the callers who contact the CAO have issues that concern several government departments. The call may begin with the focus of attention on one department. However, as the issue is addressed it becomes apparent that the issue requires the attention of several other departments.

Many of these callers are family members of children and youth who are disabled. These are some of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable children. In most cases there is a need to clarify who is responsible for providing services. Advocacy in these cases often includes facilitating a stakeholder/service provider consultation with all parties who have a role in the child's or youth's life to resolve the issue.

Case Example: Right to Service for Special Needs Children

Issue: A grandmother of a child with multiple medical issues was concerned over government plans to change the support services provided to her grandchild.

Background: A grandmother of a three-year-old child contacted the CAO. The child has multiple medical problems including spastic quadriplegia with vision impairment and developmental difficulties. The family had been receiving support services through Community Living Division (CLD), DSS. They had recently been informed that the girl's specialized placement would no longer be funded through CLD. The CLD worker proposed a placement in a "regular" daycare, stating that it would be more appropriate. The grandmother informed the CAO that a regular daycare had been attempted in the past. Due to the noise level, the lack of access to appropriate programming and the inability to provide consistency in programming, this child became medically compromised. The child had dramatic weight-loss and exhibited extreme stress. The child had been placed in her present daycare on a temporary basis by CLD. Since her placement, she experienced a dramatic improvement medically and developmentally. The grandmother was very frustrated as it appeared to her that the only reason for the proposed change was due to the cost.

Action: An Advocate met with officials from CLD, the Early Childhood Intervention Program and the local school board officials. It was determined that the move from her current placement to a regular daycare would not be in her best interest, medically or developmentally.

Outcome: The local school board and CLD agreed to provide an appropriate level of funding to allow this child to continue on in her current daycare placement.

Child Death Reviews (CDRs)

A Summary of Child Death Reviews: August 1996 to December 1998 has been included as an addendum to this 2000 Annual Report. This addendum report provides a summary of the themes and issues identified in the review of the deaths of Saskatchewan children who died between August 1996 and December 1998 (4 in 1996, 25 in 1997, and 33 in 1998). All of these children were, at the time of their death or in the 12 months preceding their death, receiving services from the DSS pursuant to *The Child and Family Services Act*, or the *Young Offenders Act* (Canada), or were living in a facility or a family child care home licensed under *The Child Care Act*.

Purpose of CDRs

Child Death Reviews advance thorough, comprehensive reviews which serve to prevent child deaths, impact child serving systems and promote public accountability.

"Over the last five years, there has been a revolution across Canada in child welfare and child protection. Sadly, it is a revolution driven not by best practice or informed feedback from consumers and those who deliver the services, but rather by the deaths of children."

Canadian Council on Social Development, 1999.

The CAO reviews only a limited number of all the deaths of Saskatchewan children. The CAO reviewed 10.7 percent of all child deaths in 1997 and 14.9 percent of all child deaths in 1998. This child death review work is complex and time-consuming. This work requires careful and close cooperation between the CAO, the DSS, and the Coroner's Office as well as other agencies involved with children.

The findings, observations and recommendations made to the DSS and others regarding the individual children who died were brought to the attention of the appropriate government officials. In addition, eight themes and issues emerged from this set of reviews.

This summary of child deaths provides public accountability regarding these deaths. What has been learned from these deaths needs to be applied to prevent similar deaths in the future.

What has been learned?

1. More information and understanding about child deaths in Saskatchewan is required. While child deaths are reviewed in various ways by various agencies, a comprehensive review and analysis of child deaths in Saskatchewan is not being completed by any agency.

"The infant mortality rates of nearly 11 deaths per 1,000 live births in the Northwest Territories, 8 per 1,000 in the Yukon and nearly 9 per 1,000 in Saskatchewan — higher than even those in the US — are likely related to the proportionately larger number of Aboriginal children born in those areas. Sadly, their overall health continues to be far poorer than the health of other Canadian children."

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2. The deaths of children who have been connected in some way to the DSS are not representative of any particular group or sample of the general population. It is, therefore, not possible to generalize from the information presented in the summary report to the general population. This report includes only a very limited set of deaths. More time is needed to really understand what was observed from the deaths summarized in the report.

3. Tragically, children die. Children die because of a variety of causes, many of which are classified as natural. This is true for all children including those receiving government services. Some of the children whose natural deaths were reviewed by the CAO received exemplary care. Their lives were extended by virtue of the compassionate and sensitive care they received. However, some children did not have the safeguards that we, as a caring society, pride ourselves on providing.

Themes and Issues

1. **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).** SIDS remains the leading cause of death for infants. The CAO recommended that the Coroner's Branch consider developing and implementing a SIDS protocol and the Chief Coroner has agreed to proceed with this initiative.
2. **Co-sleeping/Bed Sharing.** Although the results were inconclusive, there were indicators that in seven of the infant deaths, an adult was sleeping with the infant at the time of death. The CAO requested that the Action Plan for Children ensure that information about the dangers of adults co-sleeping with infant children, particularly when intoxicated, be provided to all new parents.
3. **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.** The presence of FAS or the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol was a significant concern. The CAO welcomed the additional funding provided by government to prevent FAS and to provide increased services for children affected by FAS.
4. **Violence.** The number of children who had suffered assaults during their lives and/or who died at the hands of family and caregivers was disturbing. The CAO identified the need for ongoing public education about the importance of reporting potential abuse of children to the appropriate authorities. A climate where the inclination is to report rather than ignore assaults on children must be fostered.
5. **Suicide.** The CAO recommended that collaborative case planning occur for children receiving services from both the DSS and a Health District and that a mechanism to follow-up on plans be implemented.
6. **Alcohol and Drug Use.** There continues to be a general perception that there are difficulties for youth to access addiction services. The CAO is concerned that children and youth do not have the same access to these services as adults do.
7. **Noncompliance with Policy.** The concerns raised by the CAO in previous reports (*Child Death Review: Karen Rose Quill* and *Children and Youth in Care Review*) regarding noncompliance by the DSS with legislated requirements and policy standards were noted in several of these files. The DSS has committed to and is actively working towards improving compliance and thereby improving the quality of services provided to children and families.
8. **Transfers Between DSS and ICFS Agencies.** There was a lack of information sharing and service follow-up between the DSS and some Indian Child and Family Services Agencies. A Protocol for Case Transfer has now been signed between the DSS and ten ICFS Agencies and the effectiveness of these protocols is to be examined in the future.

There is much to learn about child deaths. This summary report is only a beginning. The CAO will be preparing summary reports of child deaths on a regular basis in the future. The CAO intends to publicly release and distribute these reports on an intermittent basis. The frequency of future reports will be dependent on the complexity of the reviews and the resources available to complete the required work. It is important to proceed with reviewing these child deaths in a sensitive and careful manner. The goals of this work to provide information that will prevent child deaths, improve child-serving systems and promote public accountability must be met.

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Special Report

Investigations at Provincial Youth Custody Facilities

During the last year, the CAO investigated two reports of unfair and unreasonable treatment of youth in custody. These reports appeared to mirror the concerns previously identified by the CAO. At the request of the two youth concerned, the Children's Advocate decided to formally investigate the matters presented. The CAO has undertaken very few formal investigations. *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act* directs the CAO to, where appropriate, try to resolve issues through non-adversarial means. This Office has been very committed to this process. The circumstances of these complaints were such that the CAO decided that resolution was not possible without a formal investigation.

The CAO developed a Protocol for Investigations (Youth Facilities). The investigation process provided everyone the ability to have their information considered. All legislation, policy and practice guidelines, both at a provincial and facility level, were referenced. Interviews were conducted with front-line facility staff, management, the youth, family members and others.

JH Investigation

Reason for Investigation

JH complained to the CAO that he was subjected to unfair treatment while in a secure youth custody facility.

A full report of this investigation was presented to the DSS pursuant to section 20(1) of *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act*.

Findings

The investigation found that:

- JH was placed in a segregation cell for two days. He was held in a highly intrusive restraint on three or four occasions for a total of at least 6.5 hours, on one occasion for 4.5 hours, with his arms and legs cradled behind his back. For the majority of this time, he lay on a concrete floor without a mattress. The reason indicated for the treatment was to prevent JH from making noise and causing a building disturbance.
- The file material indicated that this treatment had become a common response to this youth. He had been repeatedly segregated and restrained (cradled) during previous admissions to the facility. JH had previously been assessed as unable to manage his behavior. Assessment recommendations by various professionals were not acted upon. There was a noted absence of planning with respect to managing JH's behavior.

- The DSS had previously been made aware that the building was inadequate to meet the needs of its clients. In 1992, the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Branch indicated that in their opinion "the facility was inadequate to allow for proper behavior management." In addition, the DSS was advised that they were in contravention of section 3(a) of *The Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- The structural inadequacies of the segregation unit resulted in the evolution of inappropriate policies and procedures to deal with behavioral problems. In addition, the facility's policies were incomplete, contradictory, lacked clarity and generally did not comply with provincial policy. These policies and practices directly contributed to the treatment JH received. A clear example of this was the policy and practice of subjecting youth, simultaneously, to segregation and restraint. This practice was once pervasive. A room has since been created in the facility that should prevent a reoccurrence of similar incidents. However, this facility change alone will not address the need for a comprehensive review of policy that would provide standards and guidelines for the use of segregation and restraints. The DSS has a responsibility to remedy the situation.
- If behavior management is not addressed through training and resources, there will continue to be reliance on the use of segregation and restraints to manage behavior. The treatment of JH during the incident under investigation was found to be unacceptable.

Recommendations

The CAO investigation resulted in 11 recommendations, which were intended to improve the treatment of youth. They address the need for:

- A thorough policy review and consistent application of policy across all Saskatchewan facilities, specifically in the areas of segregation and use of extraordinary restraints.
- The discontinued use of restraints while a youth is in segregation with exceptions strictly restricted to situations where a youth was assessed by a mental health professional as being at immediate risk of self-harm.
- Psychological and psychiatric services to assist youth and staff deal with problem behaviors.
- Improved record-keeping and the need to comply with the existing policy and standards.
- Implementation of the recommendations from a previous review of the facility program concluded in 1999.
- The development of a community-based advisory board to offer input into programming and policy at the facility.

DSS Response

The DSS responded to the CAO investigation with a commitment to re-write the Resident Confinement and Segregation Policy and Use of Restraint Equipment in Secure Custody Facilities by the end of 2000. The new Restraint policy will detail approved restraints equipment and build in checks and balances to monitor the appropriate use of such equipment. It was indicated that managing resident behavior at the facility has been addressed by creating a room where youth can be segregated without being restrained. A provincial policy committee is reviewing the use of restraints, recordings and the transfer of files between facilities.

A high risk and violent Young Offender initiative has been jointly instituted with the DSS, Health and Health Districts. Six psychologists have been hired to identify violent youth and provide service to them in custody facilities and the community. The new Youth Service Model being introduced by the DSS is intended to increase support to youth in facilities and provide better case planning for community reintegration. New directions include a collaborative approach considering the viewpoints of youth, families and various community partners.

IR Investigation

Reasons for Investigation

IR was a 15-year-old female residing in a secure custody facility. She complained that she had been unfairly removed from her room, put in segregation and subjected to unnecessary force which caused her injury. She further claimed that she was subsequently denied adequate medical attention and that she was unfairly held in continued segregation.

A full report of this investigation was presented to the DSS pursuant to section 20(1) of *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act*.

Findings

The investigation found that:

- Facility staff acted appropriately and within policy when the decision was made to segregate IR.
- Although force was used, it did not appear to be unreasonable.
- Medical reports did not document evidence of the extent of the injuries. The time lapse between IR being injured and receiving medical attention was unacceptable.
- IR was detained in segregation due to a lack of space to hold female offenders.
- The absence of an appeal process prevented IR's concerns about her continued segregation from being addressed.
- In general, there was a lack of consistent facility documentation.

Recommendations

Recommendations were made to address the need for:

- Consistent provincial policy between all Saskatchewan youth facilities.
- Specific policy and standards in the areas of segregation, use of force, compliance with policy, and appeal processes.
- A standard of care that recognizes the need for single room space for all youth detained, particularly female detainees.
- Ongoing staff training about illicit drug use.

DSS Response

The DSS accepted the recommendations and committed to provide policy and guidelines respecting Confinement and Segregation and Use of Force. In addition, a commitment was made to provide a formal provincial appeal policy, which will include a comprehensive procedure to ensure youth are fully oriented on their right to appeal.

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Systemic Advocacy

On a systemic level, the Children's Advocate Office promotes and advocates for changes to government practice, policy or legislation respecting the interests and well-being of children. The Office advocates for improvements to processes through which the interests and viewpoints of children may be expressed, considered, and respected by government when it plans and implements services that impact on children. In addition, the Children's Advocate may make formal recommendations to Saskatchewan government departments or agencies relating to the interests and well-being of children.

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The CAO is committed to advocacy at a systems level. Systemic advocacy issues emerge from the individual advocacy work. Individual issues are identified that are repeatedly not resolved or that, in our opinion, require further policy or legislative direction to resolve. In addition, the CAO has identified issues where the rights of children must be strengthened and respected.

Several systemic issues, which have been documented in previous annual reports, remain of concern to the CAO. Significant progress is noted in some areas.

Standards

The 1999 CAO Annual Report included a section entitled "A Need for Action." The request was for government to introduce consistent standards of care for youth in custody.

The JH and IR investigations, reported on in this 2000 Annual Report, further highlighted the need for action. In 1999, the CAO urged the government to:

1. Introduce consistent standards in all youth facilities.
2. Provide every young person in a facility with an orientation to their rights and responsibilities.
3. Develop discipline policies that ensure due process and opportunity for appeals.
4. Reduce over-utilization of youth custody facilities.
5. Involve young people in programs that will enable them to succeed in the community after discharge.
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Six policies, some new and some revised, were introduced by the DSS in December 2000. The six policies were: Use of Restraint Equipment in Secure Custody Facilities, Use of Discipline in Custody Facilities, Resident Appeal Process, Use of Force in Custody Facilities, Reporting of Incidents in Custody Facilities, and Resident Confinement and Segregation. Consistent adherence to these policies is intended to improve the treatment of youth in youth custody facilities. It is also hoped that implementation of these policies will prevent some of the issues that were the subject of last year's call for action from reoccurring in the future.

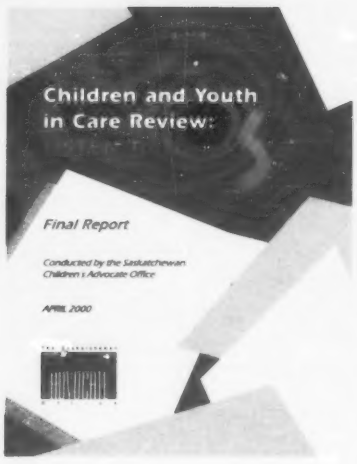
Consistent standards for the care of youth have still not been introduced for all aspects of care. The six policies that were recently introduced, combined with other initiatives such as the Youth Service Model, begin to address the issues identified last year. It is too soon to assess how these will be applied in practice.

The issues regarding the transporting and holding of youth by police and justice officials continue. The CAO anticipates that the conclusions and recommendations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police *Prisoner Escort and Transportation Review* (Saskatchewan, 1999) will assist with resolving the ongoing issues raised by youth and others in this regard.

There is still a need for action. The initiatives that are underway give some reason for optimism; however, these issues remain.

Caring for Children in Care

In April 2000, the *Children and Youth in Care Review: LISTEN to Their Voices* report detailed a number of issues and recommendations regarding children who currently live in foster care or are at risk for doing so. The Minister of Social Services has undertaken to respond to these recommendations in the spring of 2001. The CAO is very encouraged by the work the DSS has undertaken this year to review and redesign the child welfare system. The Children and Youth in Care Review presented challenges to everyone to find ways to support children and families more effectively and to ensure that all children are living in safe and caring environments. The CAO is looking forward to the Minister's response to this report.



The CAO is also involved in two national initiatives that are intended to improve the lives of children who are involved in the child welfare system. In October 2000, Health Canada announced the establishment of five Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being.

"Provision of child welfare services in Canada, and indeed throughout the Western world, is a difficult task. Social workers charged with the protection of children, like Ulysses of old, have to steer a difficult path between Scylla and Charybdis: between the rock of determining harm and the whirlpool of cultural values regarding the privacy of the family and the legitimacy of state intrusion. One result is that their task has become narrowly defined in terms of protection; knowledge pertaining to attachment and to broader child development needs has become subjugated to value imperatives of family preservation and least intrusion. Yet child deaths, negative research findings, and the subsequent search for good outcome measures have highlighted the need for reform."

Kufeldt, October 2000.

One of these, the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare, is a consortium under the administrative leadership of the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit and the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, in partnership with the Child Welfare League of Canada and many others. This Centre of Excellence has created a National Scientific Advisory Council and Saskatchewan's Children's Advocate has been invited to sit as a member of this Council representing the Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates (CCPCYA). The second initiative is a collaborative project between the CCPCYA, the Canadian Child Welfare Directors, youth in and from care and representatives of First Nations child welfare agencies. The issues and needs of children living in the permanent or long-term care of government are being examined in the context of western Canadian concerns. It is anticipated that recommendations will be made to further improve the lives of children in care.

Fair Schools

Each year the CAO annual report has documented concerns regarding schools and education in Saskatchewan. This year, the CAO is pleased to acknowledge that considerable progress has been made in this area. During 2000, the CAO was involved in the consultations for several public reports. These reports identify significant issues and concerns regarding schools and education in Saskatchewan. These public reports were:

- *Directions for Diversity: Enhancing Supports to Children and Youth with Diverse Needs*, the Final Report of the Saskatchewan Special Education Review Committee
- *Interim Report of the Task Force and Public Dialogue on the Role of the School*
- *Community Solutions for Children Not in School Conference Report*

Each of these reports:

- recognizes the need to involve the students themselves in the planning and problem solving that happens in schools.
- makes a clear commitment to respecting children, their diverse individuality and their diverse needs.

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Directions for Diversity: Enhancing Supports to Children and Youth with Diverse Needs, the Final Report of the Saskatchewan Special Education Review Committee

Interim Report of the Task Force and Public Dialogue on the Role of the School

Community Solutions for Children Not in School Conference Report

Each of these reports:

- recognizes the need to involve the students themselves in the planning and problem solving that happens in schools
- makes a clear commitment to respecting children, their diverse individuality and their diverse needs.

1. **That the Special Education Review Committee recommend to government that *The Education Act* be amended to require that boards of education make appropriate educational arrangements for all children and that the suspension or expulsion of students under age 16 be prohibited.**
2. **That the Special Education Review Committee recommend to government that the use of force for the purpose of correcting children be explicitly prohibited in all Saskatchewan schools.**
3. **That the Special Education Review Committee recommend to government that parents and students be actively informed of the procedures in place which include them in program planning and service delivery and that parents and students are fully informed of their rights to access mediation, investigation and review processes in the case of a disagreement or dispute.**

Children's Advocate Presentation to the Special Education Review Committee, March 4, 1999

"Article 12 [of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*] says that children have the right to express their views in all matters affecting them... The intent of this article is to encourage adults to listen to the opinions of children and involve them in decision-making – not to give children authority over adults. Article 12 does not interfere with parents' right and responsibility to express their views on matters affecting their children.

In promoting the right of children to express their views on matters affecting them, the Convention recognizes that such participation must occur in a manner that is appropriate to the child's level of maturity...

The emphasis of this article is on legal and administrative issues. The Convention encourages parents, judges, social welfare workers or other responsible adults to consider the child's views on such matters, and use that information to make decisions that will be in the child's best interests. In many countries, laws requiring consideration of children's opinions on such issues already exist."

UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund, 2000

CAO Recommendations to the Special Education Review Committee:

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Children's Advocate Presentation to the Special Education Review Committee, March 4, 1999.

- talks about the need for an inclusive education system that involves all of the key stakeholders in a collaborative manner.
- says there is a need for increased accountability in the school system.

How these reports and recommendations will contribute to ensuring that children and their families have access to fair schools is yet to be determined. The action plans developed in response to these reports will require careful and ongoing monitoring. It will be important to ensure that the spirit and philosophy of education that is eloquently documented in these reports is indeed fully incorporated into how children are treated in all Saskatchewan schools.

Hearing the Child's Voice – Custody and Access Proceedings

The CAO was invited to participate as a consultant to the Interdepartmental Family Justice Committee. This Committee, established in 1998, provides advice and support to Saskatchewan Justice in their undertaking to reach agreement on key issues and priorities for action that challenge children and families during separation and divorce. In September 2000, Saskatchewan Justice invited further public discussion and input into this issue by releasing a discussion paper titled *Promoting Resiliency in Children and Families: Identifying Priorities*. One of the key issues identified is the need for children to have a 'voice'. This discussion paper raises significant and important questions about how children's voices can best be heard. There is no consensus on this contentious issue.

The CAO has advocated that the child's right to participate in decisions that affect his or her life must be respected when custody and access decisions are being made.

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UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund, 2000.

While recognizing the need to include children in a meaningful way, Saskatchewan Justice raised some significant and important questions for consideration. For example:

> "...should lawyers for children be available only in exceptional circumstances or should all children whose parents are making custody and access decisions have access to legal representation? Does the lawyer advocate the child's wishes, put forward the child's best interests or merely assist the court in collecting relevant evidence? What about the capacity of the child to vocalize a position and instruct counsel? What about very young children and babies? Do lawyers need special training to represent children?" (Saskatchewan Justice, 2000).

Responses to this discussion paper will guide Saskatchewan Justice in the development of policies, programs and procedures in this area of family law. The CAO continues to participate in this work.

Advocacy and First Nations

In May 2000, the CAO and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Health and Social Development Commission jointly hosted a forum to discuss "First Nations Advocacy." Board members and staff of several First Nations Child and Family Services (ICFS) Agencies attended the forum. It was acknowledged that it is challenging to find effective ways to advocate with and for First Nations children. First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies have been established to provide child welfare services to First Nations children and their families. The current agreements between the First Nations and the Province of Saskatchewan raise some issues and questions regarding the advocacy services to which First Nations children are entitled. Under these current agreements, the CAO has a legislated responsibility to provide advocacy services to children receiving services from First Nations child welfare agencies.

The May Forum recognized that the FSIN is developing a proposal to introduce an Ombudsman/Children's Advocate for First Nations children. While this is in progress and in the interim, it was further recognized that the CAO will continue to meet individually with First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies. The goal of this work will be to enhance mutual understanding of our respective legislative authority and to expand our cooperative working relationships. The participants in this Forum also urged the CAO to hire Advocates who are members of a First Nation.

Advocacy and Northern Saskatchewan

In 2000, the Provincial Ombudsman, the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission and the Children's Advocate jointly began visiting various northern communities. In November 2000, the offices visited the communities of Beauval and La Loche. The goal of the trips was to determine how each respective office can provide more effective services in northern Saskatchewan.

"Said is not yet heard,
Heard is not yet understood,
Understood is not yet approved,
Approved is not yet applied."

UNICEF Bangladesh, 1993.

Northern leaders and other citizens are appealing for community-based solutions to issues. They are deeply concerned about the young people in their communities. These northern leaders have requested that "workers come to the (northern) communities on a regular basis and be more visible in the communities." (New North and Saskatchewan Department of Social Services, 1998). Several more communities will be visited in the upcoming year in order to establish, with input from northern citizens, long-term strategies for the future.

In addition, the CAO made several independent trips to communities in northern Saskatchewan to provide information on the Child and Youth in Care Review. Community members also provided information about ways the CAO can enhance its service to northern communities. During the past year, the CAO visited the communities of Buffalo Narrows, Lac La Ronge, Meadow Lake, and Pinehouse Lake. The conditions under which children are growing up and developing in northern Saskatchewan are of concern. Children make up at least 40 percent of the population of Saskatchewan's north. The CAO intends to increase the services it provides to northern residents by re-allocating funds to northern programming in the upcoming year.

Research

Research activities are undertaken to support, inform and influence systemic advocacy and public education activities.

The CAO is frequently invited to participate in or comment on societal issues that impact on the well-being of children. The following outlines two issues from 2000.

Sexual Abuse

The Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade

In December 2000, the Children's Advocate had the opportunity to present to the *Special Committee To Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade*. This all-party committee of the Legislative Assembly was created to address and make recommendations on the issue of the abuse and exploitation of children through the sex trade. In presenting to the committee, the Children's Advocate urged the committee to:

- Continue to focus social policy and social programs on eliminating child poverty in Saskatchewan.
- Create and immediately implement a long-term plan for supporting early childhood development.
- Assist parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.
- Ensure that community-based initiatives on behalf of and with children are given priority in resource allocations.
- Evaluate the impact of the 1999 amendments to *The Child and Family Services Act* (Saskatchewan) on children and families in Saskatchewan.
- Ensure that the legislation and policies in place to hold perpetrators accountable for their behavior are utilized to their full potential.
- Protect child victims of sexual abuse from being blamed or criminalized for being the victims of child abuse.
- Consider how the committee could implement the recommendations that were made by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Prostitution (December 1998).
- Safeguard all the rights of children in any actions you recommend—including a child's right to procedural fairness and a right to high standards of care.
- Make the right to an education a reality for all Saskatchewan children.
- Take the recommendations from experiential youth very seriously.
- Work with the federal government, the other provinces and territories to create a national agenda for action.

The CAO is looking forward to the final report and recommendations of the Committee and more importantly, to the actions that will be taken as the Committee's recommendations are implemented.

Special Committee on Tobacco Control

The CAO was invited to make a written submission to the *All-Party Special Committee on Tobacco Control*. The focus of the CAO presentation was on how exposure to tobacco and tobacco smoke is a factor, which infringes on the right of children to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as outlined in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Health issues specifically raised included:

- The negative effects of tobacco and tobacco smoke on the fetus/baby and mother during the prenatal and neonatal period.
- The negative health effects on children exposed to environmental tobacco smoke or second-hand smoke.
- The factors associated with children/youth adopting the smoking habit.

In its brief, the CAO recommended continued support for those programs and strategies that are working to reduce the negative health effects on children who are growing up in a smoke-filled environments.

The First Report of this Committee was presented to the Members of the Legislative Assembly in May 2000 and a final report is expected in 2001.

Administration

Amendments to *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act*

Amendments to *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act* were proclaimed in April 2000. These amendments clarified and extended the authority of the Children's Advocate in Saskatchewan and were, in general, welcomed by the Office.

Of note, the definition of age of a child was extended to include persons 18 years of age or more who are receiving services pursuant to section 56 of *The Child and Family Services Act*. This means that young people who are in the permanent or long-term care of the Minister of Social Services and who enter into what is called an extended care agreement are now entitled to receive assistance from the Children's Advocate Office. An extended care agreement provides a young person with assistance to continue to attend school or to receive other training.

Also welcomed by the Children's Advocate Office were amendments that more clearly described some of the details regarding the Office. The administrative responsibilities of the Office are now clearly duties of the Children's Advocate. The Children's Advocate annual report is to be tabled separately from the Provincial Ombudsman. The Children's Advocate salary will be established by the all-party Board of Internal Economy rather than by Executive Council (Cabinet).

A complete copy of the amendments to the Act can be obtained from the Queen's Printer. As of October 1, 2001, the Act will be available free of charge through the Queen's Printer website at www.qp.gov.sk.ca/. Copies may also be obtained directly from the CAO.

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The CAO is in the process of completing a new strategic plan. Four goals have been identified. These goals will form the basis of the work of the CAO over the next few years.

Goal 1: Respect Children and Youth

Promote respect for the rights and dignity of children in all services provided by provincial government departments or agencies.

Goal 2: Include Children and Youth

Engage children and youth in all matters that affect them.

Goal 3: Apply Knowledge to Create Systemic Change

Create systemic change by applying knowledge about issues affecting children.

Goal 4: Deliver Quality Services

Ensure fiscal and program accountability in accordance with legislated mandate.

as at December 2000

Glenda Cooney
John Brand
Marcel St. Onge
Roxane Schury
Rhonda Johannson
Kathy Pawluk
Sharon Chapman
Bernie Rodier
Caroline Sookocheff
Penny Fairburn
Sandra Elliot
Teri McDonald
Christa Shepherd
Gordon Mayer

Children's Advocate Budget

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Personnel Services	504.693	606.000	671.000
Contractual Services	134.489	185.330	240.523
Advertising, Printing & Publishing	38.854	44.853	34.553
Travel and Business	80.595	100.329	118.850
Supplies & Services	6.576	9.300	10.901
Capital Assets	17.793	5.188	6.550
TOTAL	$ 783.000	$ 951.000	$1.082.377

NOTE: A new format is being used to report the CAO budget expenditures. The sub totals for the years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 have been adjusted from those previously reported to reflect the new reporting format.

Five-Year Strategic Plan

The CAO is in the process of completing a new strategic plan. Four goals have been identified. These goals will form the basis of the work of the CAO over the next few years.

Goal 1: Respect Children and Youth
Promote respect for the rights and dignity of children in all services provided by provincial government departments or agencies.

Goal 2: Include Children and Youth
Engage children and youth in all matters that affect them.

Goal 3: Apply Knowledge to Create Systemic Change
Create systemic change by applying knowledge about issues affecting children.

Goal 4: Deliver Quality Services
Ensure fiscal and program accountability in accordance with legislated mandate.

Staff

as at December 2000

Glenda Cooney, Deputy Children's Advocate
John Brand, Advocate
Marcel St. Onge, Advocate
Roxane Schury, Advocate
Rhonda Johannson, Advocate Assistant
Kathy Pawluk, Advocate Assistant (Casual)
Sharon Chapman, Communications & Public Education Co-ordinator
Bernie Rodier, Office Administrator
Caroline Sookocheff, Executive Secretary
Penny Fairburn, Secretary Receptionist
Sandra Elliot, Secretary Receptionist (Casual)
Teri McDonald, Information & Resource Assistant (Casual)
Christa Shepherd, Youth Co-ordinator (Contract)
Gordon Mayer, General Counsel (Provincial Ombudsman & Children's Advocate)

Children's Advocate Budget[1]

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Personnel Services	504,693	606,000	671,000
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Appendix A –

Mission and Principles

Mission Statement

To ensure the rights of children and youth are respected and valued in our communities and in government practice, policy and legislation.

Principles of the Children's Advocate Office

The Children's Advocate Office believes that all people, particularly children, must be treated with respect, recognizing their inherent dignity as human persons.

The Children's Advocate Office will:

- Give priority to children in all activities undertaken by the Office
- Ensure that all advocacy services are respectful, appropriate, accessible, accountable, timely, lawful and consistent, irrespective of the child's location, circumstance, culture or background
- Respect the right to privacy of the child, as well as all other parties involved in the advocacy process
- Ensure that services are consistent with principles of administrative fairness
- Strive to create a safe, healthy, friendly, hospitable, and courteous work environment, which is supportive of the public and staff
- Use a team approach in the provision of services. All team members are expected to demonstrate high ethical standards and personal integrity
- Be independent of external associations in order to ensure that services remain child-focused

Appendix B –

Presentations by the Children's Advocate Office

Presentations at Conferences, Public Consultations and Annual Meetings

- *Challenging Client Populations in Mental Health*, Child and Youth Services, Saskatchewan Mental Health, Regina
- *Child Welfare in Canada in the Year 2000*, Child Welfare League of Canada, Cornwall Ontario
- *Community Solutions for Children Not in School*, Future Search Committee, Saskatoon
- *Community Partnerships Symposium on Youth Justice Renewal*, Round Table on Youth Justice Renewal, Justice Canada, Ottawa
- *Early Childhood Intervention Program Network Conference*, Saskatoon
- *8th Symposium on Violence & Aggression*, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Meeting on Child Death Reviews, Health Canada, Edmonton
- *First Nations Advocacy Roundtable*, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), Health and Social Development Commission, Saskatoon
- *Helping Families Through Life*, Regina Family Services, Regina
- *Human Services Resource Fair*, Saskatchewan Social Services, Saskatoon
- *Pediatric Conference*, Regina District Health, Regina
- *Perspectives in Child Protection: Developments in Knowledge, Determinants of Optimal Health, Dilemmas in Practice*, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland
- *Promoting Resiliency in Children and Families*, Public Consultations, Saskatchewan Justice, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Yorkton,
- *Public Legal Education Association (PLEA), Law Day Luncheon*, Saskatoon
- *Public Legal Education Assocation (PLEA), Youth and Human Rights Conference*, Saskatoon
- *Safe and Responsible Care*, Saskatchewan Foster Families Association, Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, Saskatoon
- *Task Force and Public Dialogue on the Role of School Symposium*, Saskatoon
- *10th Annual Northern Health Conference*, Athabasca Health District, Keewatin Yatthe Health District, Mamawetan Churchill River Health District

Presentations to Post-Secondary Education Students

- College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
- College of Nursing, SIAST Wascana Campus, Regina
- College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
- Department of Psychology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
- Faculty of Human Justice, University of Regina
- Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina, Regina
- Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina, Saskatoon
- Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina, Prince Albert

Presentations to Youth

- Dales House, Regina
- Kenosee Youth Camp, Kenosee Lake
- Minahik Waskahigan School, Pinehouse
- Nisbet Youth Centre, Prince Albert
- North Battleford Youth Centre, North Battleford
- Orcadia Youth Residence, Yorkton
- Paul Dojack Youth Centre, Regina
- Prince Albert Youth Residence, Prince Albert
- Saskatchewan Youth in Care/Custody Network, Saskatoon
- Street Culture Kids Project, Regina

Note: More than one presentation given in 2000

Presentations to Community Groups and Agencies

- Amnesty International Group 119, Saskatoon
- Chip and Dale Housing Inc., Regina
- Community of Hope, Fort Qu'Appelle
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Health & Social Development Commission, Saskatoon
- Inner City Intervention & Initiative Committee, Saskatoon
- Kinsmen Children's Centre, Alvin Buckwold Child Development Program, Saskatoon
- Minahik Waskahigan School, Pinehouse
- National Child Day Committee, Moose Jaw
- Queen Mary Community School, Prince Albert
- Ranch Ehrlo Society, Pilot Butte
- Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, Regina
- Saskatchewan Early Childhood Intervention Program, Saskatoon.
- Saskatchewan Foster Families Association, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Pinehouse Lake, Prince Albert, Regina, Rocanville, Rosetown, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Whitewood
- Saskatoon Children's Shelter, Saskatoon
- Saskatoon Communities for Children, Inc., Saskatoon
- Saskatoon District Health, Saskatoon[1]
- Saskatoon Public School Division, Saskatoon
- Save the Children Canada, Regional Development Committee, Saskatoon
- Street Culture Kids Project, Regina

Presentations to Employees of Government Departments or Agencies

(excluding meetings)

- Battlefords Tribal Council and Indian Child and Family Services, North Batttleford
- Community Services Branch, Saskatchewan Justice
- Fort Qu'Appelle Child & Family Services, Fort Qu'Appelle
- Meadow Lake First Nations Child and Family Services, Meadow Lake
- Onion Lake First Nations Indian Child and Family Services, Onion Lake
- Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, Regina
- Saskatchewan Social Services:
  - Aboriginal Unit, Saskatoon
  - Regional and Service Centre Offices: Fort Qu'Appelle, Lloydminster[1], Meadow Lake[1]
- Saskatchewan Social Services Youth Facilities
  - Nisbet Youth Centre, Prince Albert
  - North Battleford Youth Centre, North Battleford
  - Paul Dojack Youth Centre, Regina[1]
  - Prince Albert Youth Residence, Prince Albert
- Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services,Yorkton

[1] Note: More than one presentation given in 2000

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